

Shell Chemical Reactivating Butadiene Plant Here

Torrance to Get Modern Phone System by 1952, Officials Say



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A NEW NUMBER . . . Holding up one of the early arrivals of the 1951 supply of California license plates is lovely Dolly Wade. The orange-on-black license plate has a big "E" on it—came from the front of Police Chief John Stroth's car. Only police cars, fire trucks and other "exempt" vehicles have received the plates. (Herald photo).

Pinball Machines Finally Outlawed By Action of the City Council

Pinball machines have got to go! With little or no opposition, the City Council Tuesday night voted 4-1 to enact City Ordinance No. 518 which outlaws any coin-operated machine except certain vending machines, such as cigaret and candy machines.

Lone dissenter to enactment of the ordinance was Councilman Nicholas Dralos.

A move to dispense with further reading of the ordinance was defeated when City Attorney C. Douglass Smith ruled that it took a four-fifths vote to do so. Councilman Powell requested that the final reading be made.

Following the reading by the city clerk, Councilman Willys

Hub Caps Stolen

While it was parked in the rear of 1210 El Prado sometime Monday night, someone stole the hub caps from her 1941 Oldsmobile sedan. Lila Gullion reported to police Tuesday.

Torrance Fifth In County In July Building

Construction in Torrance during July was exceeded by only four other cities in Los Angeles county, it was announced this week.

Statistics compiled by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce show that only Los Angeles, Long Beach, El Monte, and Culver City passed the \$1,536,042 building permit figure piled up here last month.

Los Angeles led with \$3,287,329; Long Beach had \$4,710,790; El Monte had \$2,370,170; and Culver City totaled \$1,580,040.

Torrance was also fourth in the number of permits issued with a total of 319. Los Angeles issued 5451, Long Beach 1061, and Redondo Beach 420.

Council OKs Sidewalks For Riviera

Turning down the Planning Commission's recommendation that an ordinance making the installation of sidewalks mandatory be waived, the City Council Tuesday night approved an 82-lot tract in the Hollywood Riviera district without exception to the original map.

Ocean Hills Corporation, developers of the tract had requested that the ordinance requiring sidewalks be waived, but the council refused to grant the waiver after several residents of the area, including Commander William A. Mason and H. P. Bolas, protested the request.

The Planning Commission had approved the tract map and urged that the ordinance be waived.

Commenting yesterday on the action of the council at Tuesday's meeting, A. D. Gianni, member and former chairman of the Planning Commission, said:

Anti-Red Editors Booked for Lecture

Two fighting editors who have chosen Communism as their special foe will address an open meeting of the Torrance service clubs in the Civic Auditorium Monday evening, September 11, it was announced this week.

Arranged by the Kiwanis Club, which will hold its own regular meeting at 8:30 that evening, the address by Ed Gibbons and Norman Jacoby, editors of the anti-Communist "Alert," will be open to the public without admission charge.

Gibbons and Jacoby, veteran Los Angeles newsmen, launched their weekly newsletter in 1948 with the special task of fighting Communism in California.

PEOPLE DON'T KNOW

Said the two editors when they started publishing: "We are trying to tell the simple facts of life about Communism. The truth is that responsible people don't know them; they don't know what Communism is and who runs it. California doesn't need anything new to combat Communism. What we need is some cooperation and coordination of existing organizations, a turnaway from generalities to specifics."

The editors fight just as hard from the platform as from the pages of their confidential report, according to those who have heard them speak.

THEY NAME NAMES

The dynamic delivery of these men, speaking straight from the shoulder, naming names, has held the attention of audiences all over the state, literally for hours.

Jacoby and Gibbons will be guests of the Kiwanis Club at its weekly dinner meeting preceding their appearance at the Civic Auditorium at 8 p.m. The Kiwanis Club is sponsoring their visit here, according to Mayor Bob L. Haggard, president of the organization.

Arrangements for the joint meeting of the service clubs are being handled by J. B. Scotton and Police Chief John Stroth.



ED GIBBONS . . . Fighting

NORMAN JACOBY . . . Editors

Cat, Dog Stolen

Theft of a two-year-old Siamese cat was reported to Torrance police this week by owner, William A. Wainwright of 1917 Border avenue.

Wainwright told police he last saw the animal Saturday evening. One of Wainwright's neighbors also lost a Husky dog on Thursday evening, according to police.

Sniffer Sniffs, Sinker Shot, Seaside Smells

You may have got wind of this little yarn before, but we'll repeat it for those who missed it.

Mrs. Fred V. Knouse, who lives at 23011 Doris way in Seaside Ranchos, came face to face with a real stinker last week, and Torrance Police Officer John Maestri had to shoot it out with a skunk to keep the neighborhood from getting a bad reputation.

Aroused when a dreadful odor began seeping out of the family garage, Mrs. Knouse investigated and found the skunk, a perfectly healthy animal, claiming squatters' rights to the building.

Officer Maestri got rid of the intruder, all right, but it will take more than a slug from a service revolver to erase the lingering memory of the visitor.

Council Approves '50-'51 Budget

Adoption of the city budget which had been revised to lop off the \$14,500 it lost through an error made by the County Tax Assessor's office, was approved by the City Council Tuesday.

Basing the original budget on the estimated evaluation of Torrance which the Assessor had set at \$52,000,000, the city fathers found last week that the real worth was only \$48,508,400.

To cover the loss in expected revenue, the budgetmakers sliced a little from most of the bigger departments.

City Manager George Stevens said this was done in order to prevent any one department from assuming the brunt of the slash in available money.

The revised budget was adopted by the council after Councilman George Powell had delayed action on it by insisting that the council instruct the city manager to set aside enough funds to cover a \$10-a-month raise for all city employees.

The matter was finally referred to the City Manager by vote of the council.

In other action by the council, bids for supplying the city district at Torrance Gardens with a truck and Gar Wood load packer were opened and referred to Street Superintendent Ralph St. Perkins for recommendation and action.

The council also approved a request for variance to rezone a portion of the Torrance Gardens tract at Torrance boulevard and Crenshaw from R-1 and R-2 to C-2. The area to be rezoned is on the southwest corner of the tract. It will be used for a market and shops, developers of the area told the council.

The city fathers also gave their approval for the city to participate with the State Division of Highways in doing something about eliminating some of the dangerous aspects of the intersection of Sepulveda and Hawthorne boulevards. Plans call for new lighting and modern channeling of traffic through that dangerous crossing.

Armed Thug Gets \$5000, Yeggs Crack Cafe Safe

Safecrackers and a stickup artist were busy in Torrance this week, taking a total of more than \$5000 in two "jobs" reported to Torrance police.

A lone thug held up the office of the Inglewood Farms Dairy at 3400 Del Amo boulevard Sunday evening and escaped with more than \$5000. Ralph C. Voges, manager of the dairy, and his son, Sonny Voges, said the lone gunman came in the office about 8 p.m. Sunday and pulled an automatic pistol on the two men.

Scoping up several canvas bags containing the dairy receipts, the hoodlum escaped in a waiting car.

An audit of the receipts conducted by Det. Capt. Ernest Ashton of the Torrance Police Department Monday revealed that the total take at the dairy office was \$5003.34.

Safecrackers early Tuesday broke into the Fish Shanty in Waleria and knocked over a safe, getting about \$150 in cash. Police said the burglars shoved the huge safe into a rear yard of the Fish Shanty and pried it open in the early morning hours. The looting was discovered by employees reporting to work Tuesday morning.

27-Year-Old Car Collapses Like One-Hoss Shay

A 27-year-old car collapsed like the one-hoss shay after the collision on Pacific Coast highway near Roberts road, in Waleria.

The elderly man, Albert Thomsen of 2406 1/2 Hawthorne boulevard, crawled from his wrecked, overturned vehicle and refused medical attention.

Harry Miller, 36, of Wilmington, was listed by police as the driver of the other car involved.

Plant to Open To Capacity Manager Says

Announcement that Shell Chemical Corp., acting as agent for the Office of Rubber Reserve, has just been requested by the government to immediately reactivate the government-owned butadiene facilities at 19821 South Figueroa street, was made yesterday by F. S. Rodine, plant manager.

Constructed under the supervision of Shell and operated by Shell personnel during World War II as a major producing unit of the government's synthetic rubber program, the plant will be reactivated to operate at capacity, officials said.

The plant has been maintained by Shell since it was shut down after the war.

Reactivation of the butadiene plant is planned as part of the effort to get synthetic rubber facilities in operation by Dec. 1 as was requested recently by President Truman.

"Recognizing its responsibilities to the government in again being called to service in a time of national emergency, Shell Chemical Corporation has spared no effort in returning key staff personnel to the plant to supervise this undertaking," Rodine said.

MANAGER RETURNS

Rodine was plant manager of the industry here during its operation during the war. He recently returned to supervise the reopening of the huge butadiene-making plant.

Butadiene is one of the major ingredients used in the manufacture of synthetic rubber. Styrene, another major ingredient, is produced by the Dow Chemical.

Dial System Promised For Torrance Exchange

Long-awaited word that Torrance would receive a modern, up-to-date telephone system in the foreseeable future was received here yesterday.

In a joint statement, F. I. Snyder, district manager and A. B. Smith, local manager of the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, said:

"Barring the unforeseen effect of the military situation on the availability of materials and a manufacturing facilities, Torrance will convert to dial telephone service in 1952."

The telephone officials stated that much planning must go into such a major project—the first of such planning being a building to house the equipment needed to operate such a facility.

Enumerating the changes that must be made before a dial system can be put into operation, the officials said the company must:

1. Plan and erect a building to house the equipment.
2. Arrange the manufacture, shipping and installation of dialing equipment in the exchange.
3. Change all telephone numbers and add a non-identifying prefix. (The prefix for this area will not be "Torrance").
4. Change all instruments in residences, industries and business establishments.
5. Rearrange distribution of cables and interoffice trunking cables.

"With everything at its best the changeover of such a system as is presently here to a dial system requires a minimum of 18 months," the officials told the Herald yesterday.

Announcement of construction of the building which will be erected at the southwest corner of Cravens avenue and Engracia avenue will follow together with subsequent progress reports from time to time, they said.

The site for the new building was acquired by the telephone company in 1946.

WELCOME NEWS

The announcement by the company of plans for the changeover will come as welcome news to the members of the Joint Council of Torrance service clubs who have been working diligently to bring the plight of telephone users to the attention of company officials.

Members of the Joint Council, under the chairmanship of Dr. W. I. Laughon, have been contacting citizens for several months in an effort to get some positive action on improving telephone services in this area.

The Torrance Chamber of Commerce, cooperating with the council, has been contacting industries served by the Torrance exchange, to get their reaction to present telephone service.

INDUSTRY REPLIES

About 12 industries have filed letters with the Chamber stating their dissatisfaction at the service which has been offered in the past through the limited facilities available here.

Almost without exception, the industries stated in their letters that they had received the full cooperation of the telephone officials here with regard to their requests for expanded service, but that the physical limitations of the equipment available precluded any further service.

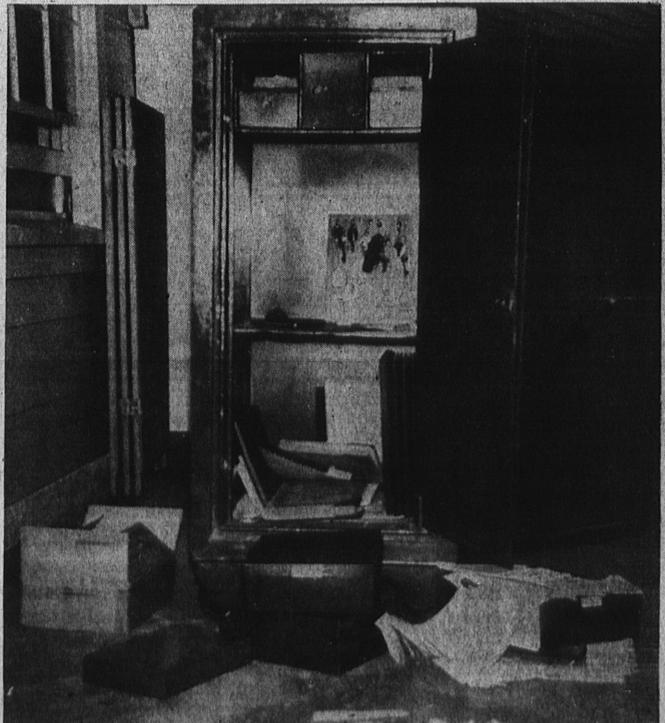
Many industries stated that such limitations of phone facilities

Health Finalists To Vie for Title

Finalists for the title of Health King and Health Queen from among the city's playground participants will be chosen at the various playgrounds tomorrow in preparation for the recreation department's big "Open House" party at the Civic Auditorium August 31.

The King and Queen will reign over the Open House.

Contestants for the regal titles must be 12 years old or younger, and will be judged chiefly on the basis of poise, appearance, posture, and cooperation.



RANSACKED . . . Shown here is the scene of Tuesday morning's safecracking at the Fish Shanty in Waleria. Yeggs broke into the Pacific Coast highway restaurant and pried open this huge strongbox to get about \$150 in change and some papers. (Photo by Gale Whitmore)

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued on Page 2)